

REMARKS

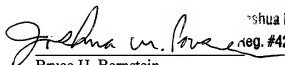
In the outstanding Final Office Action, claims 2-16 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-32 of U.S. Patent No. 6,415,254. In view of the herein-contained remarks and the attached terminal disclaimer, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants are filing the attached terminal disclaimer merely to remove any issue as to whether the claims of the above-identified application and those of U.S. Patent No. 6,415,254 in any way conflict. However, neither Applicants nor the assignee intend to make any representation as to whether the invention to which any claim of the present application is directed would have been obvious in view of any issued patent, or whether an obviousness-type double patenting rejection would be appropriate if the enclosed terminal disclaimer were not filed. The terminal disclaimer is being filed only to expedite prosecution and obtain early allowance of claims in the present application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 17-37 will have been added for consideration. Applicants note that various of new claims 17-37 recite combinations of features similar to combinations of features previously recited in claims 2-16 as originally presented (i.e., prior to amendment thereto or cancellation thereof).

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kazutoshi YASUNAGA et al.

 Joshua M. Povsner
Reg. #42,086
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place]
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191